

## Message Text

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42

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 PM-04 DODE-00 AID-05 SSO-00

IGA-02 /022 W

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O 161940Z APR 76

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1276

INFO USCINCSO IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS GUATEMALA 2947

FROM THE AMBASSADOR

EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: SWEL GT

SUBJECT: PURCHASE OF BAILEY BRIDGES

1. I AM CONCERNED THAT OUR LONG-STANDING EFFORT TO OBTAIN BAILEY BRIDGES FOR THE GOG TO MEET EMERGENCY NEEDS DURING THE FAST-APPROACHING RAINY SEASON APPEARS TO HAVE ENCOUNTERED UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTIES.

2. SIMPLY PUT, IT WAS OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT BRIDGES ARE AVAILABLE, THAT DOD WAS WILLING TO RELEASE THEM, AND THAT THERE WERE BRIDGES LOCATED NEAR ENOUGH TO LITTLE CREEK, VIRGINIA TO PERMIT DELIVERY THERE PRIOR TO DEPARTURE LATER THIS MONTH OF THE NAVY LST'S WHICH WILL BE COMING TO GUATEMALA TO RETROGRADE THE US ENGINEER BATTALION APRIL 28. BASED ON THIS INFORMATION, THE GOG SENT A REPRESENTATIVE TO NEW CUMBERLAND, PENNSYLVANIA, WHERE WE UNDERSTOOD THE BRIDGES TO BE LOCATED, TO INSPECT THE BRIDGES WITH AN AID/W ENGINEER. THE GOG THEN AGREED TO PURCHASE THE BRIDGES AND WE WERE GIVEN A CHECK FOR THE FULL AMOUNT BY THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE WHICH HAS BEEN DEPOSITED IN A U.S. TREASURY ACCOUNT.

3. WE HAVE NOW BEEN INFORMED THAT THE BRIDGES AT NEW CUMBERLAND ARE NOT AVAILABLE, BUT INSTEAD, OTHERS LOCATED IN OHIO ARE AVAILABLE, AND THAT THESE MAY OR MAY NOT BE OF UNCLASSIFIED

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EQUAL QUALITY WITH THOSE THAT THE GOG SELECTED. WE ARE IN A

POSITION OF HAVING ACCEPTED GOG FUNDS FOR BRIDGES NOW DECLARED TO BE UNAVAILABLE AND INSTEAD THE GOG IS OFFERED SOMETHING WHICH THEY HAVE NOT SEEN. EVEN MORE IMPORTANT, THESE ALTERNATIVE BRIDGES MAY BE LOCATED WHERE DELIVERY TIME MAKES IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY THEY CAN BE LOADED ABOARD THE LST'S COMING TO GUATEMALA.

4. I URGE THAT EVERY EFFORT BE MADE TO OBTAIN THE RELEASE OF TWO BAILY BRIDGES AND REPLATED PARTS OF AT LEAST COMPARABLE QUALITY TO THOSE INSPECTED BY GOG REPRESENTATIVE AND THEIR DELIVERY TO THE POST FROM WHICH THE US NAVY LST'S ARE SCHEDULED TO DEPART FOR GUATEMALA IN TIME TO LOAD THEM FOR SHIPMENT HERE. THE NEED IS URGENT IN VIEW OF THE RAPID APPROACH OF THE RAINY SEASON. THE PRESIDENT OF GUATEMALA HAS PERSONALLY BEEN INVOLVED WITH EVERY STEP OF THIS TRANSACTION AND HAS HIMSELF BEEN EXPEDITING MATTERS FROM THE GUATEMALAN SIDE.  
MELOY

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** BRIDGES (STRUCTURES)  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 16 APR 1976  
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**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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